H-1B DEMONSTRATION GRANTEE ONE-PAGER

Grantee: **Municipality of Anchorage**
Round: 2
Region: 6
Grant Amount: $2,425,035
Contact: Ruth DeCamp
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Duration of Grant: The period of performance shall be August 1, 2000 to July 30, 2002.

Population Served: Incumbent workers and unemployed individuals with limited or no computer skills.

Geographic Area Served: Municipality of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Boroughs.

Unemployment Rate:

Seasonally Adjusted	**May 2000**	**April 2000**	**May 1999**
Alaska	**6.1%**	**6.6%**	**6.8%**

Not Seasonally Adjusted	**May 2000**	**April 2000**	**May 1999**
Anchorage	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%

Targeted Industries/ Jobs/Skills: Telecommunications industry, with a focus on computer systems analysts, computer software engineers, electrical/electronic engineers, and sales and marketing.

Uniqueness of Proposal: Addresses the labor market needs of a cohesive region including Anchorage and the adjacent Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Partnerships: Anchorage/Mat-Su Borough Local Workforce Investment Board; High Tech Business Council/Information Technology Consortium, representing 24 IT businesses and 4 local and state government entities; University of Alaska; Matanuska-Susitna School District; Alaska Job Corps; Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training; Alaska Business/Education Compact; and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Apprenticeship and Training program.

THE NEED:

The available pool of skilled American information technology workers is not commensurate with the

high demand for such workers in the greater Anchorage area and throughout the United States, compromising the ability of businesses to compete in global markets and sustain economic growth. In Alaska, skill shortages exist in the telecommunications and computer technology industries, while unemployment is high in Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT:

This business-led project will provide participants with assessment and career counseling, a certificate course in information technology piloted at the University of Alaska, Southeast, applied training, and apprenticeships and job placement. The two-year project, based on identified skills and knowledge gaps, will focus on telecommunications industry jobs as systems analysts, computer software engineers, electrical/electronic engineers, and telecommunications sales and marketing, alleviating the need for H-1B visa workers.